

[0019] A utility knife tool constructed to promote safety during use. The tool includes a handle with a distal portion, a blade secured to and extending from the distal portion, an integral, movable blade cover for enshrouding the blade when the tool is not in use and exposing the blade during use, and a blade-cover biasing member for urging the blade cover to a position covering the blade. A blade-cover locking system includes a cover-lock member with a first engagement element and hand-operable cover-release member with a second engagement element. In operation, the engagement elements are cooperatively engageable with each other whereby engagement of the elements with each other maintains the blade cover in a locked mode covering the blade and disengagement with each other releases the blade cover from the locked mode.

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